GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3364
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2002
DRUG FORMULATIONS
AKHILESH SINGH;C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of multitudes of useless and harmful drug formulations being marketed in our country;

(b) if so, whether World Health Organisation has suggested only limited number of the existing drugs to be marketed in the country as essential drugs;

(c) if so, the details regarding the guidelines suggested by the World Health Organisation in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ban the marketing and manufacture of useless and harmful drugs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b)&(c): World Health Organization in its report `The use of Essential Drugs` has given Model List of Essential Drugs which should satisfy the health care needs of the majority of the population. It has however recommended that the selection of essential drugs is a continuous process which should take into account changing public health priorities and epidemiological conditions and the current medical knowledge. It has also been stated that it does not imply that no other drugs are useful.

(d): The drug formulations reported to be harmful or irrational are examined in consultation with leading experts and an Expert Committee constituted by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).Recommendation of the Expert Committee are then examined by the Board. The drugs considered harmful or irrational are prohibited for manufacture and sale under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. 74 categories of drugs/drugs formulations have so far been prohibited under the said Act.